

14 October 2008

*This supplement has been prepared to present scientific and technical news items that may be of more interest to technical personnel at RDT&E activities and the labs, or the medics rather than the broader readership of the basic CB Daily. Due to the nature of the material, the articles, if available online, are usually only available through subscription services thus making specific links generally unavailable. Thus, usually only the bibliographic citation is available for use by an activity's technical library.*

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## **Chem-Bio News – Pandemic Influenza Supplement #31**

**1. PANDEMIC FLU MODELS IMPROVE FOOD, QUARANTINE STRATEGIES:** *"While it is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed models to help organizations like the American Red Cross and Georgia Department of Education prepare emergency response plans."*

**2. APIC SEEKS MANDATE FOR FLU SHOTS IN HEALTH WORKERS:** *"In the face of chronic low influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers, the leading US society of infection control professionals says it's time to require medically eligible workers to either get the immunization or sign a form saying they understand the risks to patients if they skip it."*

**3. US CONTROLS BIRD FLU VACCINES OVER BIOWEAPON FEARS:** *"When Indonesia's health minister stopped sending bird flu viruses to a research laboratory in the U.S. for fear Washington could use them to make biological weapons, Defense Secretary Robert Gates laughed and called it "the nuttiest thing" he'd ever heard."*

**4. ANTIGENICALLY DISTINCT MF59-ADJUVANTED VACCINE TO BOOST IMMUNITY TO H5N1:** *"Our findings indicate that priming subjects with H5 antigen induces a rapidly mobilized, long-lasting immune memory after the administration of low-dose, antigenically distinct vaccine."*

**5. UW-MADISON COMPLETES INSTITUTE FOR INFLUENZA VIRAL RESEARCH:** *"The University of Wisconsin-Madison has announced the completion of a \$12.5 million Institute for Influenza Viral Research, located in University Research Park."*

**6. CDC AWARDS \$16.9 MILLION CONTRACT TO IMPROVE CAPABILITIES TO COMBAT PANDEMIC, SEASONAL INFLUENZA:** *"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a \$16.9 million contract to American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) of Manassas, Va. to implement the CDC Influenza Reagent Resource (CDC-IRR), a secure, Web-based system that will improve access to influenza viruses, test kits and other reagents for approved laboratories."*

## **7. GSK UPDATES RELENZA LABEL TO REFLECT RESISTANT VIRUS MUTATIONS:**

*"GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has updated physician labeling for its influenza drug Relenza just in time for the upcoming flu season, following the FDA's request that the company include a statement about resistant virus mutations."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## ***Chem-Bio News***

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### **PANDEMIC FLU MODELS IMPROVE FOOD, QUARANTINE STRATEGIES**

Medical News Today

October 13, 2008

"The 1918 flu pandemic killed more than 40 million people worldwide and affected persons of all age groups. While it is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed models to help organizations like the American Red Cross and Georgia Department of Education prepare emergency response plans."

"Details of the models, developed with ISyE associate professor Julie Swann and graduate student Ali Ekici, will be presented on October 12 at the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting."

"The Georgia Department of Education is using Georgia Tech's models to investigate whether or not schools should be closed during a pandemic."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/125279.php>

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### **APIC SEEKS MANDATE FOR FLU SHOTS IN HEALTH WORKERS**

By Robert Roos

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)

October 10, 2008

"In the face of chronic low influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers, the leading US society of infection control professionals says it's time to require medically eligible workers to either get the immunization or sign a form saying they understand the risks to patients if they skip it."

"As part of a comprehensive strategy, we recommend that influenza vaccine be required annually for all healthcare personnel with direct patient care," the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) said in a policy statement released yesterday.

"Organizations should adopt a system in which an informed declination is obtained from employees that decline for other than medical reasons," the statement continues. "This information should be utilized by the facility to develop improvement strategies for the following vaccine season."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/oct1008apic.html>

The APIC position paper can be found at: <http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home1&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTFILEID=11049>

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## **US CONTROLS BIRD FLU VACCINES OVER BIOWEAPON FEARS**

By Robin McDowell,  
Associated Press on Yahoo News  
October 11, 2008

"When Indonesia's health minister stopped sending bird flu viruses to a research laboratory in the U.S. for fear Washington could use them to make biological weapons, Defense Secretary Robert Gates laughed and called it "the nuttiest thing" he'd ever heard.

Yet deep inside an 86-page supplement to United States export regulations is a single sentence that bars U.S. exports of vaccines for avian bird flu and dozens of other viruses to five countries designated "state sponsors of terrorism."

The reason: Fear that they will be used for biological warfare."

The full article can be found at: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081011/ap\\_on\\_re\\_as/as\\_bird\\_flu\\_biological\\_warfare](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081011/ap_on_re_as/as_bird_flu_biological_warfare)

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## **ANTIGENICALLY DISTINCT MF59-ADJUVANTED VACCINE TO BOOST IMMUNITY TO H5N1**

BY Iain Stephenson, Karl G. Nicholson, Katja Hoschler, Maria C. Zambon, Kathy Hancock, Joshua DeVos, Jacqueline M. Katz, Michaela Praus, Angelika Banzhoff  
New England Journal of Medicine  
October 9, 2008

"To reduce shortfalls in vaccine supply at the onset of the next pandemic, advance stockpiling of vaccine has been suggested. Because of antigenic evolution of H5N1, current vaccines may be suboptimally matched to the actual pandemic virus. Proactive priming may induce immune memory, allowing low-dose vaccination to induce rapid cross-protection when needed.

We report on an open-label study conducted from June through August 2007 at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, United Kingdom."

"Modeling of pandemic spread shows that the maximum reduction in viral transmission is achieved by the induction of a response within 2 weeks after the outbreak of the pandemic.<sup>5</sup> Because two doses of the vaccine are required, rapid vaccine deployment will be challenging. Our findings indicate that priming subjects with H5 antigen induces a rapidly mobilized, long-lasting immune memory after the administration of low-dose, antigenically distinct vaccine. Given the protective titers detected by day 7, the effect of MF59 adjuvant is striking. Consideration could be given to a proactive vaccine-priming strategy, particularly among those at high risk for pandemic influenza such as health care workers, so that cross-clade antibodies could be rapidly generated after single vaccination or after exposure to the pandemic virus."

The full article can be found at: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/359/15/1631>

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## **UW-MADISON COMPLETES INSTITUTE FOR INFLUENZA VIRAL RESEARCH**

Wisconsin Technology Network

October 13, 2008

"The University of Wisconsin-Madison has announced the completion of a \$12.5 million Institute for Influenza Viral Research, located in University Research Park.

The facility was built to support the work of Dr. Yoshihiro Kawaoka, a researcher at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Kawaoka, who developed a "reverse genetics" technique to make flu vaccines more efficient, has demonstrated how flu viruses create infectious particles."

The full article can be found at: <http://wistechnology.com/articles/5123/>

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## **CDC AWARDS \$16.9 MILLION CONTRACT TO IMPROVE CAPABILITIES TO COMBAT PANDEMIC, SEASONAL INFLUENZA**

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention News Release

October 8, 2008

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a \$16.9 million contract to American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) of Manassas, Va. to implement the CDC Influenza Reagent Resource (CDC-IRR), a secure, Web-based system that will improve access to influenza viruses, test kits and other reagents for approved laboratories.

The contract with ATCC is for one year, with the option to renew each year for up to 10 years.

"This new resource will be a significant improvement for accessing the CDC library of influenza viruses," said Dr. Nancy Cox, Director of the Influenza Division at CDC. "We expect that the CDC-IRR will speed the development of better diagnostic tests, antiviral drugs and vaccines."

The system will allow researchers, developers and public health officials improved access to a repository of influenza viruses, including influenza viruses that could pose a pandemic risk, as well as kits and reagents (certain substances used in the testing process) through a secure internet web portal for approved users.

In the event of an emerging pandemic, the CDC-IRR will serve as a source of reagents for qualified laboratories to provide additional support. During a pandemic, laboratories will play a critical role in detecting and confirming initial cases, characterizing viruses, monitoring the progression of the pandemic, and selecting vaccine strains."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r081008.htm>

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## **GSK UPDATES RELENZA LABEL TO REFLECT RESISTANT VIRUS MUTATIONS**

FDANews

October 13, 2008

"GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has updated physician labeling for its influenza drug Relenza just in time for the upcoming flu season, following the FDA's request that the company include a statement about resistant virus mutations. GSK noted data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that show 10.9 percent of influenza A (H1N1) viruses from the last flu season tested positive for resistance to Roche's Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate) while no resistance to Relenza (zanamivir) was detected. The update, which revises the indications and usage section of Relenza labeling, comes roughly a week after Roche updated the label for Tamiflu with identical language."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.fdanews.com/newsletter/article?issueId=12040&articleId=111214>

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